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# House confirms base closings

*343-75 vote kills effort to halt last shutdowns*

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WASHINGTON — The House voted overwhelmingly yesterday to kill the last effort to block the final round of military base closings.

A bipartisan band of lawmakers pushed a resolution to reject the independent Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's recommendations, attacking its decision to close bases not on the Pentagon's list.

But many Republicans, while supporting the commission's action, accused President Clinton of injecting presidential politics into the base closing process by trying to protect thousands of jobs at facilities targeted for closure in California and Texas.

Key Republicans declared that Clinton's plan to save many of the jobs at the large Air Force repair depots in Sacramento and San Antonio could be overridden by Congress.

The House vote, 343-75, ensures that the commission's report will go into effect later this month because it must be disapproved by both congressional chambers before it can be halted.

The Senate had no plans to review the commission's proposals to shut down 79 facilities and reduce 26 others.

Thirteen of the bases selected for closure in this round are in California, which already had lost 29 major bases and dozens of smaller facilities in the three previous closure rounds.

The disapproval resolution was authored by Reps. Frank Tejeda, D-Texas, and Vic Fazio, D-Calif., to protest the commission's decision to close the depots at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, and McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento.

The entire San Diego County delegation opposed the measure.

California stands to lose 19,372 military and civilian jobs in this round, according to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. An additional 22,898 indirect jobs would be lost at dry

cleaners, fast food restaurants and other business that depend on bases for customers.

Opposition to the resolution was led by House National Security Committee Chairman Floyd Spence, R-S.C., and Rep. Joel Hefley, R-Colo., chairman of the mili-

standing under the base closing law. Shifting the work at Kelly and McClellan to private contractors would defeat the whole purpose of reducing excess maintenance facilities, they said.

Spence, Hefley and other Republicans declared that the letter proposing a privatization of the depot work, which Clinton attached to the commission's report when he accepted it July 13, had no legal

tary installations subcommittee, who strongly denounced President Clinton for what they called playing politics with his promise to save most of the jobs at Kelly and McClellan.